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PRESENTS

ABRAHAM LABORIEL

New Bass Concepts

TRANSCRIPTIONS BY VINCENT BREDICE

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to the improvisational nature of Abraham Laboriel's playing style, we were unable to include the complete transcriptions for most of the performances on the video tape. However, Abraham has provided the following patterns and exercises as examples of the basic rhythms and techniques he uses in these performances.

Many of the techniques featured in this booklet require a lot of coordination between the right and left hands. Take the time to learn each one correctly. Increase your speed gradually and don't go too fast early on. When in question, check the video for proper hand positions.

Notation Key

The Notation Key diagram consists of four rows of musical notation on a single staff, illustrating various techniques used in the booklet.

- Row 1: Fret Positions**
 - 0: open string
 - 2: 2nd fret
 - 3: 3rd fret
 - 4: 4th fret
- Row 2: Right Hand Techniques**
 - p: Thumb of right hand
 - i: 1st finger of right hand
 - m: 2nd finger of right hand
 - a: 3rd finger of right hand
- Row 3: Left Hand Techniques**
 - 4th finger of right hand (represented by a circled 'p')
 - H: Hammer-on with left hand
 - R: Rocking technique with right hand
 - Down Up Down Up Strokes with right hand (represented by 'v' and 'V' symbols)
- Row 4: Triplet Patterns**
 - 1/8 note triplets
 - 1/16 note triplets

Below the notation, the beats are labeled: Beat 1, Beat 2, Beat 3, and Beat 4.

NOTE: Triplets are used throughout this booklet. Three 1/8 note triplets equal one 1/4 note or one beat. Six 1/16 note triplets equal one 1/4 note or one beat. Play first note of each triplet slightly louder than the others.

THE p - i - m STROKE

Four rows of musical notation for the p-i-m stroke exercise, each row containing four measures. Each measure shows a triplet of notes (p, i, m) with a finger number (1, 2, 3, 4) below the first note. The notes are marked with '0' above them, indicating natural harmonics or specific fret positions.

THE HAMMER STROKE

Two rows of musical notation for the hammer stroke exercise, each row containing four measures. Each measure shows a triplet of notes (H, H, H) with a finger number (1, 2, 3, 4) below the first note. The notes are marked with '3', '5', and '6' above them, indicating specific fret positions.

THE HAMMER STROKE with repeated notes

One row of musical notation for the hammer stroke exercise with repeated notes, containing four measures. Each measure shows a triplet of notes (H, H, H) with a finger number (1, 2, 3, 4) below the first note. The notes are marked with '3', '5', and '5' above them, indicating specific fret positions.

①

p H p p H p p H p p H p p H p p H p

1

②

p H p p H p p H p p H p p H p p H p

2

③

p H p p H p p H p p H p p H p p H p

3

④

p H p p H p p H p p H p p H p p H p

4

THE ROCKING HAND STROKE

④

R H R R H R R H R R H R R H R R H R

1

①

p H p R H R R H R R H R R H R R H R

1

THE DOWN-UP THUMB STROKE

④

p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p

1

③

p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p p

3

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

P 1 V 2 P 3 V 4 P 1 V 2 P 3 V 4

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

P 1 V 2 P 3 V 4 P 1 V 2 P 3 V 4

THE DOWN-UP THUMB STROKE with triplets

3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5

P 1 H 2 V 3 P 2 H 3 V 4 P 3 H 4 V 1 P 4 H 5 V 2

3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5

P 1 H 2 V 3 P 2 H 3 V 4 P 3 H 4 V 1 P 4 H 5 V 2

3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5

P 1 H 2 V 3 P 2 H 3 V 4 P 3 H 4 V 1 P 4 H 5 V 2

THE MOVING FINGER DOWN-UP STROKE

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

P 1 V 2 P 3 V 4 P 1 V 2 P 3 V 4 P 1 V 2 P 3 V 4

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

P 1 V 2 P 3 V 4 P 1 V 2 P 3 V 4 P 1 V 2 P 3 V 4

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

②

i V i V m V m V a a a a p p p p

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

②

p p p p a a a a m V m V i V i V

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

③

i V i V m V m V a a a a p p p p

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

③

p p p p a a a a m V m V i V i V

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

④

i V i V m V m V a V a V p p p p

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

④

p p p p a a a a m V m V i V i V

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

THE MOVING FINGER DOWN - UP HAMMER STROKE with triplets

2 4 4 4 2 2 2 4 4 4 2 2 2 4 4 4 2 2

①

m H V m m H V m m H V m m H V m

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

2 4 4 4 2 2 2 4 4 4 2 2 2 4 4 4 2 2

①

m H V m m H V m m H V m m H V m

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

3 5 5 5 3 3 3 5 5 5 3 3 2 4 4 4 2 2 2 4 4 4 2 2

④ ③ ② ①

□ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V

i i i i p p p p a a a a m m m m

1 2 3 4

2 4 4 2 4 4 2 4 4 2 4 4 2 4 4 2 4 4 2 4 4 2 4 4

① ② ③ ④

□ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V

m m m m a a a a a a a a a a a a

1 2 3 4

3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 5

③ ④

□ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V □ H V

p p p p i i i i i i i i i i i i

1 2 3 4

ABRAHAM LABORIEL

New Bass Concepts

A native of Mexico City, Abraham Laboriel learned guitar from his father, a gifted musician and composer. Abraham began recording at age 10, and later became a session guitarist in Mexico City. In 1968, he won a scholarship to study classical guitar at The Boston Conservatory, but soon transferred to The Berklee School of Music where he learned to play bass. During this time he developed a bass technique modeled after his unique, five-fingered guitar approach, and recorded with Gary Burton. Abraham graduated from Berklee with a Bachelor of Music degree in composition, and began a broad-based career as both a studio session bassist and performing artist.

Abraham Laboriel has since become one of the most innovative bassists in modern history. His creative ability to make a song "groove" is without parallel. While combining Latin, South American and Caribbean rhythms with his highly unorthodox technical approach, he has become one of L.A.'s premier session bassists. From jazz artists like Larry Carlton, Dave Grusin, Lee Ritenour, Joe Sample, George Benson, and Al Jarreau, to pop artists like Quincy Jones, Kenny Loggins, Stevie Wonder, and Barbara Streisand, to major motion pictures like *Saturday Night Fever* and *The Color Purple*, Abraham Laboriel's musical imprint has been felt by the entire recording industry.

In this fast-paced 69 minute video, you'll experience the joy and exuberance that are an integral part of Abraham's live performances, as you watch him perform 6 songs, 5 with various members of his popular group KOINONIA. You'll also learn various right and left hand techniques such as his unique 5-fingered right hand technique, left hand tapping, 2-handed paradiddles, triplets, rocking with the right hand, strumming with the right hand, and many more. He'll show you the different instruments he uses in recording, and explain some of the ethnic rhythms he incorporates into his playing style. Meant for players of all levels, this video features many of the new and original bass concepts that Abraham has pioneered over the years. As you will see, Abraham Laboriel is truly an innovator and master of his instrument.

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